



CEPPS/NDI Quarterly Report: April 1, 2005 to June 30, 2005

**NEPAL: INCREASING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL PROCESSES BY
STRENGTHENING POLITICAL PARTIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

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Project Dates: December 15, 2004 to December 14, 2006

I. SUMMARY

Nepal's democratic development is now facing its most critical challenge since the restoration of democracy in 1990. Over the last 15 years, citizens' respect for political parties and democracy diminished markedly in response to a string of unstable and unresponsive elected governments. Results from the National Democratic Institute (NDI)'s 2004 focus group research and nationwide polling show that political parties are widely perceived to be corrupt, self-interested and disconnected from the needs of the people. The King has used the parties' ineffectiveness as an excuse to consolidate his own rule over the last two years. Meanwhile, a deadly Maoist insurgency has taken hold of much of the countryside, filling the void left by unstable governments and capitalizing on the rural population's dissatisfaction with the political elite. Both the elected Parliament and local government have been dissolved and new elections have been indefinitely postponed.

The ongoing political turmoil has perpetuated a cycle of conflict between the Maoists, the King and political parties. Maoist rebels claim the King's consolidated rule justifies their struggle, while the King maintains he took power to address the Maoist threat. Nepal's political parties have played a limited role in improving the situation, due in part to power struggles within and among parties, weak party foundations at the grassroots level, and pervasive corruption. The parties' lack of organizational capacity and political maturity has harmed their public image and ability to make a positive impact on the national political situation. Following the royal takeover, many political party leaders and activists have been imprisoned or placed under house arrest, further limiting the capacity of parties to advocate for the restoration of democratic government.

Despite the current restrictions on political party activists, the King has expressed his long-term commitment to multi-party democracy and has indicated his desire to see political party reform and responsive grassroots development. Thus, there appears to be sufficient political space to work with political parties to support their efforts to reform and establish stronger links to their constituents. In this context, NDI is implementing a multifaceted program that will approach Nepal's political impasse from three complementary angles. The program

will: 1) facilitate efforts to restore representative democracy; 2) support the democratization of internal party governing structures and processes and encourage the development of new leadership in participatory, representative and accountable political parties; and 3) support civil society efforts to assess, advocate, monitor and report on the political reform processes. These activities will, in turn, help to reestablish the public's confidence in representative democracy. NDI and its partners will need to maintain flexibility in the implementation of these goals to respond to changing political conditions, and will adjust activities accordingly while maintaining the fundamental goal of supporting the restoration and strengthening of democracy in Nepal.

During this reporting period, the Institute: held a series of Political Party Advisory Committee and Women's Advisory Committee meetings; facilitated meetings on the role of civil society in advancing the political agenda; conducted a media workshop on democracy and responsible journalism; held a workshop for women party members on advocacy and lobbying; implemented a week-long Political Party Leadership Development Training-of-Trainers (TOT) Workshop; and facilitated a roundtable discussion on the role of youth in politics. NDI has been active in the implementation of all components of its program portfolio and has made important strides in meeting its program goals this quarter by equipping 26 political party activists with the skills necessary to conduct party-specific leadership trainings for their own political parties in the coming reporting period.

II. BACKGROUND

Nepal witnessed a dramatic change in its political environment on February 1, 2005, as democracy was revoked, constitutional rights suspended, a state of emergency declared, censorship of the press instituted, and direct Royal rule established in Nepal for a three-year period, as described by the King in his Royal Proclamation. The King's takeover of Nepal's government was the outgrowth of years of failed democratic governance and a growing Maoist insurgency.

Since 1991, conflicts within and among political parties have made it difficult to maintain governing coalitions in Nepal, which has resulted in a rapid succession of 13 prime ministers - four in 1998 and 1999 alone. This instability is both a contributing factor to, and exacerbated by, continued economic hardship and the "People's War," launched in northwestern and western Nepal in 1996 by the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist. The civil war has now spread to virtually all of the nation's districts. Between March and October 2002, parliament and elected local government bodies were dissolved and the King dismissed the cabinet. At present, except for the Speaker and deputy Speaker of the Parliament¹, there are no elected officials in Nepal.

Relations between the political parties and King Gyanendra have steadily deteriorated since his coronation in 2001, particularly since the then-elected Prime Minister and his cabinet were dismissed on October 4, 2002. After this event, the major parliamentary parties were unable to agree on a consensus choice for prime minister when presented with the opportunity. This political impasse opened the way for increasing royal authority, culminating in the February 1 declaration of a State of Emergency.

¹ As mandated by Article 51 of the 1992 Constitution, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House continue in their posts until a date has been set for filing of nominations for elections to the House of Representatives.

While the King has stated he is operating with a three-year mandate, it is unknown how long the current situation of royal rule can continue. Recent nationwide polling and focus groups sponsored by NDI and funded by USAID have shown that, while there is disappointment with political parties' performance, there is a deep reservoir of support for an elected multi-party democracy and limited desire to return to any form of absolute monarchy. This suggests that the King's government may have to demonstrate positive results quickly to maintain public approval. Much will depend on how his government can address the growing Maoist threat, how the international community responds to the situation, and whether political parties can reform themselves, recapture the public trust, and unify to forge a common approach to restoring democracy in Nepal.

Despite the recent lifting of the State of Emergency, fundamental human rights continue to be suppressed in Nepal, including the freedoms of speech and expression. The Government maintains its restrictions on electronic and print media. At the same time, there are some indicators that suggest the possibility of continued reform and democratic restoration. As a result of pressure both inside and outside of the country, many political party leaders, including student leaders, have been released from detention. On May 8, political parties who were members of the dissolved parliament announced their six-point common agenda, which supports the end of the King's direct rule and restoration of democracy and the people's sovereignty. India, the United Kingdom and the United States continue to deliberate on whether to resume non-lethal assistance to the Royal Nepal Army (RNA).

III. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Consensus Building and Political Party Reform

Discussion: The Current Political Environment and the Way Forward

On April 15, NDI held a breakfast meeting for the political secretaries of the U.S., British, Indian, and Japanese embassies, representatives of international donor organizations, heads of the international wings of the major political parties and other political party figures to discuss the current political situation and the best way to move forward. The meeting was beneficial in that it allowed the international community and political parties to hear and understand each others' perspectives and observations on the current political climate.

Political Party Leadership Development

Political Party Advisory Committee Meetings

NDI continued to hold regular Political Party Advisory Committee meetings to discuss, develop and plan for the leadership development Training-of-Trainers (TOT) workshop. The meetings also allowed for further discussion on issues relevant to the current political situation. NDI and the political parties agreed on the following guidelines as a basis for the planning and implementation of the leadership development training:

- Develop a curriculum in close consultation with all the major political parties that covers the basic elements of party development and leadership training;
- Conduct an intensive, week-long multi-party Training-of-Trainers (TOT) workshop (Phase One) for five members from all major political parties selected in collaboration;
- Provide international trainers for this workshop and subsequent individual party workshops;
- Support an intensive, party-specific week-long training for twenty-five members of all the major political parties (Phase Two), selected in collaboration;
- Assign an administrator/organizer, trained by NDI, to work with each party to implement party-specific leadership trainings and follow-up party building projects;
- Design a core curriculum for Phase One in cooperation with NDI, political party leaders, academics, experts, civil society leaders and members of the media to assist in designing a party-specific leadership training curriculum for Phase Two of the training;
- Work with the parties to select a broad cross-section of individuals to participate in both phases of the leadership training;
- Consult with advisory committee members, party members and participants on follow-up party building projects as needed;
- Ensure the attendance of at least one member of the central party office at the training events;
- Identify one contact person in the central party office to act as liaison with NDI; and
- Maintain a confidential relationship with all the major political parties, ensuring that details about the party and its training program will not be shared with anyone outside of NDI.

In addition to these steps and provisions, parties were requested to send a letter of support for the program to party regional/district branches participating in the program, and to notify NDI of any public statement or discussion concerning the party's relationship with NDI. All parties were amenable to these requirements and worked closely with NDI this quarter on the implementation of this project.

Development of Training Curriculum and Materials for Political Party Leadership Development TOT Workshop

NDI, in close consultation with international trainers, designed a training curriculum for the TOT workshop. The Institute revised and translated a number of materials related to principles and techniques for political party strengthening, including resources that have been used for leadership development training in South Asian countries.

Identifying and Selecting Master Trainers for the TOT Workshop

NDI worked with the major political parties, including the Nepali Congress (NC), Nepali Congress-Democratic (NC-D), Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML), Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), Nepal Sadbhawana Party (NSP), Nepal Sadbhawana

Party-Anandidevi (NSP-A), and Peoples Front Nepal (PFN) in identifying and selecting master trainers from each party to participate in the TOT workshop.

Political Party Leadership Development Training-of-Trainers (TOT) Workshop

From June 12 to 18, 2005, NDI held a TOT workshop for political party Master Trainers (MTs). The TOT workshop accommodated over 26 party activists from seven political parties who received training on a wide range of topics, including: leadership principles; organizing trainings and workshops; party organization, development, outreach and reform; party message; and campaigns and campaign finance. In addition to sessions on these topics, participants received lessons facilitated by the Nepal Jaycees, a leadership training association, on how to serve as effective trainers. The training also included sessions on how to integrate underrepresented groups such as women, youth, and ethnic minorities into politics.

The TOT was designed to build the knowledge base and training skills of MTs from each of the political parties. To reinforce knowledge of the skills offered during the day, evening peer training activities were developed to allow for an opportunity to put theory into practice. NDI also held focus group meetings regarding youth, women and information technology during the training period (Appendix A: TOT Agenda). The participants worked together enthusiastically and tirelessly for seven days, networking and sharing ideas with party activists from their party as well as other political parties, during the course of the training. (Appendix B: TOT Summary Report)



Women's Political Participation

Women's Political Participation Advisory Committee Meetings

During this quarter, NDI continued to hold its monthly Women's Political Participation Advisory Committee meetings. The primary objectives of these meetings were two-fold: 1) to discuss the agenda and design of the women's advocacy and lobbying workshop; and 2) to advance in the finalization of the *Nepali Action Plan*². The Advisory Committee is comprised of 13 prominent women leaders from seven key political parties.

² The Nepali Action Plan is a customized version of the more global Gender Action Plan that was developed based on the consensus of political women leaders from around the world in December 2003

Women's Advocacy and Lobbying Workshop



leadership and promote political party reform; and develop strategies for the implementation of the *Nepali Action Plan*, a charter of best practices for increasing the role of women in political parties.

From May 23 to 24, NDI held a workshop titled “Women’s Advocacy and Lobbying.” Dr. Nursansita Nasution from the Indonesian House of Representatives facilitated the workshop, which included 54 central- and district-level participants from seven major political parties and six non-governmental organizations (Appendix C: Lobbying Workshop Summary). Primary objectives of the workshop were to improve lobbying and advocacy skills among women; strengthen political party

Women’s Roundtable Discussion

Because nearly half of the participants from the Leadership TOT were women, NDI held a special forum during the workshop to dialogue with the women on their role within their parties, the challenges they face and their impressions of the *Nepali Action Plan*. This discussion offered an important opportunity for NDI to discuss the status of women in politics with a diverse, politically active group of Nepalese women. The group highlighted limited female representation in politics, and all participants expressed overwhelming interest in the development of a multi-party women’s caucus to advance the agenda set forth in the *Nepali Action Plan*.



Civil Society Strengthening

International Stakeholders Meeting

In mid-May, NDI held a breakfast meeting with international stakeholders to further its understanding of the current civil society initiatives in the country. The objectives of this meeting were to: 1) introduce NDI's civil society program; 2) gain a better understanding of current civil society initiatives occurring throughout Nepal; and 3) brainstorm how NDI might best collaborate, reinforce and/or fill a void in its continued efforts to strengthen Nepalese civil society’s role in increasing citizen participation in the political process.

The primary focus of the meeting was the need to develop a viable civil society umbrella group that could advance political and democratic agendas. Overall, the group felt that civil society should take a leading role in strengthening the political process. Assuming a strong role in this area would enable civil society to better ensure efficiency in advocacy, lobbying and reporting of reform and democratic initiatives conducted by political parties and the government. At the conclusion of the meeting, all stakeholders agreed on the need for a functional networking group comprised of civil society organizations, both at the center and the grassroots. The following international stakeholders provided valuable input to the meeting:

- Mr. Bishwo Ulak, Program Officer, Department for International Development (DFID)
- Mr. George Varughese, Assistant Country Representative, The Asia Foundation (TAF)
- Mr. Govinda Neupane ARD-Rule of Law
- Ms. Line Urban, Third Secretary, European Commission (EU)

National Stakeholders Breakfast Meeting

In June, NDI conducted an additional breakfast meeting with national stakeholders working in the field of democracy and governance, human rights, and constitutional and electoral reform. Participants included representatives from the Dalit NGO Federation; Centre for Studies on Democracy and Good Governance (CSDG); Advocacy Forum; National Association of Village Development Committees in Nepal (NAVIN); Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS); ABC/Nepal; Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ); Nepal Centre for Contemporary Studies (NCCS); Community Study and Welfare Centre; Society of Ex Budhanilkantha School (SEBS); Forum for Public Interest (Pro Public); Nepal Law Society (NLS) and Sancharika Samuha. The meeting focused on the formation of a civil society advocacy and lobbying network to advance political party reform and democratic practices. Participants at the roundtable concurred on the need to establish a CSOs network that will contribute to the democratic process of Nepal. Such a group would be the first of its kind in the country.

Youth and Politics

Dialogue with Youth Political Leaders

During the Political Party Leadership Development TOT, NDI also took advantage of the opportunity to bring together the political youth represented in the training. This meeting served as a forum to discuss their feelings and concerns and express their viewpoints regarding the role of youth in their respective parties. This discussion offered NDI valuable input and ideas pertaining to the development and future implementation of the youth component of its current program.

Breakfast Meeting: The Role of Youth in Politics

On June 29, NDI organized a meeting attended by 20 youth leaders from different sectors of the population, including politics, business, art, journalism and civil society, to discuss their role in politics. This structured interaction provided participation with important insight into the challenges and contemporary issues of youth political involvement. Themes from the discussion

included the need for youth to coordinate their efforts on a common platform; the importance of regular discussion among youth leaders; and the role of youth in working with grassroots political leaders to aid in the advancement of the political agenda. Youth also discussed the importance of training for youth on leadership development, civic education and capacity building.

Media

Democracy and Responsible Journalism



From May 11 to 13, NDI held a workshop for media representatives titled, “Democracy and Responsible Journalism.” The workshop objectives were to: enhance the understanding of responsible journalism in a democracy; discuss the role of media in strengthening democracy; discuss the values of democracy vis-à-vis the functioning of news media; review the existing media practices in Nepal, including both print and broadcast; and promote responsible journalism in a conflict situation.

Twenty-nine journalists from prominent media organizations, including newspapers, magazines, television and radio stations within and outside the Kathmandu Valley, attended the workshop. Judy Yablonky, Media Consultant and Journalism Trainer, facilitated the workshop. The three-day event contained sessions on topics such as reporting conflict, peace journalism, and responsible journalism (see Appendix D: Media Workshop Agenda). On the final day of the event, a landmark discussion took place between political party spokespersons and leading editors about the interrelation between democratic institutions and the press. This session helped to bring forth admissions of error by political parties, and parties acknowledged that they should work in a more professional manner to contribute to the future strengthening of democracy in Nepal.

PROGRAM TRAVEL

During this quarter, the following individuals traveled for program implementation purposes:

Traveler	Point of Origin	Destination	Dates
Judy Yablonky, Media Consultant, Journalism Trainer	Houston, TX	Kathmandu	May 9-14, 2005
Allison Lince-Bentley, Senior Program Assistant	Washington, DC	Kathmandu	May 9-25, 2005
Dr. Nursanita Nasution, Indonesian House Representative	Jakarta	Kathmandu	May 22-25, 2005
Owen Lippert, Resident Director, NDI/Bangladesh	Dhaka	Kathmandu	June 11-18, 2005
Mary Cummins, Resident Director, NDI/Pakistan	Islamabad	Kathmandu	June 11-15, 2005
Ivan Doherty, Director of Political Party Programs	Washington, DC	Kathmandu	June 13-18, 2005
Ian Schuler, Program Officer	Washington, DC	Kathmandu	June 12-18, 2005

IV. RESULTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Objective 1: To support political parties' efforts to restore representative democracy;

- Following meetings with NDI, representatives from the five major political parties agreed to participate in drafting a multi-party joint statement on commitments for party reform, a plan for the future, and a summary of benefits of multi-party democracy.

Objective 2: To support the democratization of internal party governing structures and processes to encourage participatory, representative and accountable political parties.

- All five major political parties agreed to participate and implement leadership development training programs, an important first step toward building parties' internal capacity to support and train leaders. Political party representatives also assisted in identifying and selecting a training curriculum and materials for the TOT workshop, and helped to ensure that their party was represented by qualified and capable participants at the workshop. The parties' engagement in both the planning and implementation of this project is a key component of ensuring long-term party support for this initiative, and demonstrates their interest in undertaking reforms to strengthen their parties.
- Participants of the workshop on women's advocacy and lobbying workshop displayed understanding and clear use of advocacy and lobbying techniques to advance the democratic political agenda and voiced their commitment to the advancement of the draft *Nepali Action Plan* designed to improve the status of women in politics. Following the workshop, women party members began discussions on ways to form a multi-party women's caucus to pursue women's agendas and goals.
- During the dialogue with youth political leaders attending the TOT and also in the breakfast meeting with the youth leaders, participants noted that the government and political parties deliberately keep them out of meaningful participation in democratic nation building. They overwhelmingly agreed that if given adequate training and viable opportunities, youth would play a more constructive role in the political arena. This positive response from youth indicates their motivation and potential to become stronger and more committed stakeholders in the political process.

Objective 3: To support civil society efforts to assess, advocate, monitor, and report on the political and electoral reform processes.

- A cross-section of civil society organizations showed enthusiastic interest in working together to aid in the advancement of the political and democratic agenda of the country and proceeded with preliminary discussion of future collaboration.

As a result of the various meetings with both local and international NGOs and other stakeholders, civil society representatives came to agreement on the importance of forming a network of NGOs to work for the advancement of political reform. If this effort is successful, it will be the first umbrella network of its kind for civic organizations in Nepal.

V. EVALUATION

On April 29, after almost three months, King Gyanendra lifted the State of Emergency. Though citizen's rights are still restricted and the political environment remains relatively closed, NDI has been active in the implementation of all components of its CEPPS program portfolio. The Institute has made important strides in meeting its program goals this quarter by equipping 26 political party activists with the skills to conduct party-specific leadership trainings for their own political parties in the coming reporting period. In addition, NDI successfully engaged various components of civil society, as well as women and youth political members, to further encourage participatory, representative and accountable political parties. Based on well attended events and analysis of program evaluations, stakeholders of NDI activities remain enthusiastic and committed to aiding NDI in achieving the goals and objectives of this program, even under the current challenges faced in the political situation. Since the lifting of the State of Emergency in April 2005, NDI has not experienced many difficulties from the government, but remains constrained in its implementation of planned media campaigns due to government restrictions on radio regarding non-approved news reporting.

VI. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Political Parties

Senator Daschle Visit

NDI is proceeding with preparations for Senator Thomas Daschle's visit to Nepal from July 21 to 27, 2005. The primary objectives of Senator Daschle's visit will be to: 1) hold high-level meetings with top political party leaders and the King to identify potential common ground for addressing the current political crisis; and 2) reinforce party reform as a means of advancing the political and democratic agendas. Meetings for the visit are tentatively scheduled with King Gyanendra; political party leaders; women and youth political leaders; U.S. Ambassador James Moriarty; USAID Mission Director Don Clark; and civil society leaders. It is hoped the visit will further the agenda for party reform by promoting political party consensus building and providing practical recommendations on issues of peace, elections, and restoration of democratic rule in the country.

Phase Two Internal Party Trainings

In the next quarter, the Institute will work with seven political parties to identify and select participants for the second phase training, finalize the trainer's manual, and help organize party specific leadership trainings for 25 party activists from each party in Kathmandu. The Institute will also work with political parties to identify and implement specific projects at the regional/district level.

Preparing and Finalizing the Trainers' Manual for the Leadership Development Training

Currently, NDI is preparing the *Trainers' Manual for the Political Party Development Trainings* based on the training curriculum and materials used during the TOT workshop. This manual will be used in the upcoming individual political party training workshops.

Women in Politics

Nepali Action Plan

Female political leaders are still in the process of revising the *Nepali Action Plan*. Meetings are scheduled to continue in order to edit and finalize the content of the plan as well develop a five-year implementation plan.

Preparations for Women's Caucus Development Workshop

Due to the strong interest of female political leaders in the formation of an all-party platform to advance the strategy outlined in the *Action Plan*, NDI will organize a workshop on caucus development. Presently, NDI is exploring the possibility of formalizing an all-party women's caucus that will advance women's agendas and continue to promote women's political participation. NDI will invite an international expert with experience in developing and implementing a women's caucus to aid in the facilitation of the workshop. The main objective of the workshop is to better understand the mechanisms necessary to organize and implement an effective women's caucus. Following formation of the all-party women's caucus, members will meet on a monthly, rotational basis in their party offices to report and update on the implementation of the *Nepali Action Plan*.

Civil Society Strengthening

NDI will continue to work to strengthen the civil society organization network by meeting with five prominent local organizations that deal with political and democratic issues: SCOPE, Pro Public, Nepal Law Society, National Association of Village Development in Nepal (NAVIN) and the Centre for Studies on Democracy and Good Governance (CSDG). This meeting will further explore the outcomes of the April breakfast meeting and aid in designing the tools, criteria, and guidelines necessary for the expansion of the CSO network.

Youth and Politics

NDI will also continue to advance the role of youth in politics. It will assist in the formation of a Youth in Politics Coalition and aid the Coalition in the development of a *Political Youth Action Plan*. The plan will be lobbied among political parties. To reinforce its youth and politics activities, NDI will continue to organize activities with the Youth Coalition, including capacity building activities on civic education and putting democracy into practice.

Media

The media campaigns that were envisaged prior to February 1 to create awareness about principles and values of democracy remain a high priority. Print media remains highly censored in relation to radio (the most popular means of obtaining information); however, space does seem to be opening among the written dailies and journals. NDI follows up regularly with various media houses to evaluate additional openings within the press. To offer further creative means to advance work on political media campaigns, NDI is assessing the probability of engaging in the following initiatives:

Network of Local/Regional Publications

The development of a rural media network would provide an alternative means of reaching individuals residing outside the Kathmandu Valley. The network would consist of various publications targeting audiences outside of the valley, where the majority of the population lives. This network could offer effective mechanism for regularly distributing news stories and various campaign materials, offering access to many stations at any given time.

Democracy News and Information Portal

This electronic magazine would offer stakeholders with one central location to research information on political processes, democratic practices, party reform, and women's political caucuses, as well as other political information. NDI continues to assess the resources needed in order to make this alternative media initiative the most efficient and effective.

Focus Group Discussions

As a follow-up to the above-mentioned media workshop, NDI will hold a series of focus group discussions with participants to discuss how the skills gained at the training have impacted their work and effectiveness as journalists in Nepal. This discussion will also provide NDI with additional ideas on how to support media in the advancement of political reform and democracy in the country.



**Political Leadership Development Program
Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshop
June 12-18, 2005**

Hotel View Bhrikuti, Godavari

AGENDA

Sunday, June 12 - Arrival – Hotel View Bhrikuti		
Time	Session	Presenter, Trainer or Facilitator
10:00 – 12:00	Registration	Anamika and Sushmita
1:00 – 5:30	Welcome and Program Overview	Scott, Mary and Owen
	Introduction of Program	Mary and Scott
	Leadership Principles	Nepal Jaycees
	Deconstructing Leadership	Mary
5:30 – 6:30	Youth group meeting on advancing Youth Political Participation (Only youth participants) – Kury and Jay	
6:30 onwards	Welcome Reception/Dinner at Hotel View Bhrikuti	

Monday, June 13 – Leadership Principles and Outreach		
Time	Session	Presenter, Trainer or Facilitator
7:30 – 8:30	Breakfast	
8:30 – 11:30	<u>Leadership Cont'd</u> Leadership Principles Continues	Nepal Jaycees
11:30 – 1:00	Education Principles, Organizing the Training and Selecting Participants with Potential	Mary
	How Adult Learn?	Kury
1:00 – 2:00	Lunch	
2:00 – 5:00	<u>Outreach</u> Why do People Join	Mary
	Building, Expanding the Base	Scott
	Underrepresented Groups in Politics (Youth and Women)-Panel Discussion	Jay
	Using IT for Outreach	Ian
	Sample Party-Building Projects	Mary and Scott
5:15 – 6:15	Women's group meeting on advancing Nepali Action Plan (Only women participants) – Kury and Anamika	

6:30 onwards	Joint Dinner with Political Party Leaders at Godavari Village Resort (Note: Bus from Hotel View Bhrikuti will leave sharp at 6:15pm)
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Tuesday, June 14 – Party Reform and Party Organization and Development with IT		
Time	Session	Presenter, Trainer or Facilitator
7:30 – 8:30	Breakfast	
8:30 – 1:00	<u>Party Reform</u> Transparency, Internal Democracy, Accountability – Incentives and Deterrents (Triangle Exercise)	Mary
	SWOT	Mary
	Ethics in the Party	Ivan, Owen and Scott
	Nominations and Appointments	Ivan
	Participatory Decision-Making	Scott
1:00 – 2:00	Lunch	
2:00 – 5:00	<u>Party Organization and Development with IT</u> Internal Party Structure-National, Regional and Local	Ivan and Owen
	Database Construction	Ian
	Internal Party Communication	Ian
	Research	Owen and Ian
	Funding	Ivan, Owen and Scott
	Budgeting	Owen
5:15 – 6:15	Working with IT Specialists on web surfing and designing tips (CPN-UML participants)	
6:30 onwards	Dinner at Hotel View Bhrikuti	

After Dinner Activities		
8:30 – 9:30	Free for other activities	

Wednesday, June 15 – Message and Getting the Message Out		
Time	Session	Presenter, Trainer or Facilitator
7:30 – 8:30	Breakfast	
8:30 – 12:30	<u>Message</u> What is Message?	Mary
	Message Box	Mary
	Message Development	Scott and Mary
	Public Speaking	Mary
	Finding out what People Need	Mary and AC Neilson

	Message Exercise	Scott
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch	
1:30 – 3:00	<u>Getting the Message Out</u>	
	Working with Media	Ivan, Owen and Jay
	Writing Press Releases	Scott
	Holding Press Conferences	Jay
	Using IT to Disseminate the Message	Ian
3:15 – 6:00	Free Time – Swimming Pool at Godavari Village Resort will be available if participants are interested in swimming (<i>Note: Bus from Hotel View Bhrikuti will leave sharp at 3:15pm</i>)	
6:00 – 7:15	Peer Training (Training Role Plays) at Godavari Village Resort– Kury and Ram	
7:30 onwards	Joint Dinner at Godavari Village Resort	

After Dinner Activities

8:30 – 9:30	Working with IT Specialists on web surfing and designing tips (Nepali Congress participants)
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Thursday, June 16 – Campaigns

Time	Session	Presenter, Trainer or Facilitator
7:30 – 8:30	Breakfast	
8:30 – 12:30	<u>Campaigns</u>	
	Building a Team	Ivan
	Candidate Selection	Scott
	Targeting Voters	Scott
	Communicating with Voters	Scott and Ian
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch	
1:30 – 4:30	<u>Campaigning Cont'd</u>	
	Campaign Funding	Purnaman
	GOTV	Scott
	Election Monitoring	Ivan and Scott
	Making the Campaign Plan	Ivan and Scott
5:00 – 6:00	Peer Training	
6:30 onwards	Dinner at Hotel View Bhrikuti - Cultural Program	

After Dinner Activities

8:30 – 9:30	Working with IT Specialists on web surfing and designing tips (Nepali Congress-Democratic participants)
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Friday, June 17 –Party Work at Home and Party Governance

Time	Session	Presenter, Trainer or Facilitator
7:30 – 8:30	Breakfast	
8:30 – 12:30	<u>Party Work at Home</u>	
	Working with NGOs – Panel Discussion	Kury and Sushmita
	Working with Local Media – Panel Discussion	Jay
	Review of Possible Party-Building Projects	Scott
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch	
1:30 – 4:30	<u>Party Governance</u>	
	Caucus, Using MPs to Build the Party	Ivan
	Party Discipline, Resolving Internal Party Conflict	Ivan and Owen
	Developing Issues, Promoting Legislation	Scott
	Developing Coalitions	Ivan
	Ethics, Codes of Conduct in Parliament	Ivan
5:00 – 6:30	Working with IT Specialists on web surfing and designing tips (RPP and NSP participants) – 45 minutes/each	
6:30 onwards	Joint Dinner at Godavari Village Resort (Note: Bus from Hotel View Bhrikuti will leave sharp at 6:15pm)	

After Dinner Activities		
8:30 – 9:30	Working with IT Specialists on web surfing and designing tips (PFN and NWPP participants)	

Saturday, June 18 – Closing		
Time	Session	Presenter, Trainer or Facilitator
7:30 – 8:30	Breakfast	
8:30 – 12:30	<u>Wrap-Up</u>	Ivan, Owen, Scott and Ian
	Review/discussion on of Party-Building Projects	
	Review of Week, Q and A, Future Plans, Last-minute Advice	
	Final Evaluation	Kury
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch	



National Democratic Institute for International Affairs

**Increasing Citizen Participation in Political Process by Strengthening
Political Parties and Civil Society**

**Political Leadership Development Program
Training-of-Trainers (TOT) Workshop**

**June 12-18, 2005
Kathmandu Nepal**

Summary Report

From June 12-18, NDI held a week-long Training-of-Trainers (TOT) workshop for political party master trainers in Kathmandu. These trainings drew over 26 party activists from seven political parties. The trainings covered a wide range of topics including: leadership principles; How to Organize Trainings and Workshops; How Adults Learn; Party Outreach; Party Reform; Party Organization and Development with Information Technology (IT); Message Development; Getting the Message Out; Party governance; Campaigns; and Campaign Finance. In addition to training on these topics, participants received lessons on how to teach the training itself by Nepal Jaycees and how to organize and target underrepresented groups (women, youth, and ethnic community) in politics through different panel discussions. The training sessions were conducted by international trainers: Ivan Doherty, Director for Political Party Programs; Scott Kearin, NDI/Nepal Resident Director; Mary Cummins, NDI/Pakistan Resident Director; Owen Lippert, NDI/Bangladesh, Resident Director; Kury Cobham, NDI Civil Society Specialists; Ian Schuler, Program Officer, Information Technology and resource persons from the Nepal Jaycees.

The TOT was designed to build the knowledge base and training skills of master trainers from each of the political parties. Participants had the opportunity to implement training sessions of their own during peer-training sessions in the evening. NDI also held separate focus group meetings for youth, women, and information technology during the training period to discuss specific issues on their respective fields and how NDI and the political parties can plan ahead to address issues related to youth, women and effective ways of using information technology within political parties.

In addition, the Institute also held an unprecedented panel discussion among the participants and the media personnel. Thirsh Koirala, Chief of News and Current Affairs, Kantipur Television; Bishnu Nisthuri, President, Federation of Journalists Association and Hari Bahadur Thapa, Chief of News, Kantipur Daily were present on the panel. The main objective of the panel discussion was to enhance collaborative relations between political leaders and media groups to strengthening democracy and the advancement of a common political agenda. It is essential that the political party leaders understand proper use of media as a tool viable to advance their similar objectives. It also oriented them to create wide strategies to give out party messages and use effectively during election campaign.

Similarly, the Institute held an informative panel discussion among the participants and leading NGO leaders Durga Ghimire, Coordinator, South Asian Women in Politics; Gahendra Malla, General Secretary, Society for Constitutional and Parliamentary Exercises (SCOPE); and Pradip Thapaliya, Executive Director, National Association of Village Development Committees in Nepal (NAVIN). The main objective of the NGO panel discussion was to explore what political parties and civil society could do to better advance an agenda for democracy and citizen involvement together, especially at the local level. The participants and the NGO leaders responded to the following questions:

- What are parties doing wrong in their relationship with civil society, and what are they doing right?
- What kind of cooperation should there be between civil society and political parties, especially at the local level, to make sure that people are informed about the major issues of the day and their voices are heard and considered?

- Can parties and civil society do a better job of involving average citizens in the political process?
- Can parties and civil society work on service projects together?
- Can they lobby government together for needed improvements?
- Can they work together to ensure that elections are free and fair when they are held?
- How can civil society encourage parties to perform their proper function on a democratic system?

The participants remained enthusiastic and attentive throughout the entire training period. They worked intensively together for six days, networking with other party activists from their party, and other parties, during the course of the training.

Participants in NDI's TOT are better equipped to train their respective party's future leadership after attending the TOT. They demonstrated an increased understanding not only of the topics covered by the TOT, but the methods that can be used to train others.

The following participants were present from the seven political parties:

Political Parties	Name of the Participants
Nepali Congress (NC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Man Bahadur Bishwakarma, President, Dalit Wing • Mr. Gokarna Rai, General Secretary, Indigenous Wing • Mr. Brikesh Chandra Lal, Former Mayor, Janakpur Municipality, Dhanusa • Ms. Kamala Thapa, General Secretary, Women's Wing • Ms. Srijana Adhikari, Central Committee Member, Student Wing
Nepali Congress-Democratic (NC-D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Amar Raj Kaini, Former Minister, Central Committee Member and Chief of the Training Department • Mr. Ramesh Lekhak, Former Member of Parliament and Member Secretary of the Training Department • Ms. Ishwori Neupane, Vice-President, Women's Wing • Ms. Sita Gurung, Secretary, Women's Wing • Ms. Indira Karki, Central Committee Member, Women's Wing
CPN-UML (Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Yub Raj Karkee, Central Committee Member and Member of the Training Department • Mr. Yadav Sharma, Secretary to the Party General Secretary • Ms. Asthalaxmi Shakya, Former Minister and Central Committee Member • Ms. Urmila Aryal, Former Member of Parliament and Central Committee Member • Mr. Ram Chandra Jha, Former Member of Parliament and Central Committee Member
RPP (Rastriya Prajatantra Party)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Govinda Khaniya, Deputy General Secretary • Mr. Govinda Bikram Shah, Parliamentary Committee Member and Zonal In-charge • Mr. Thakur Singh Tharu, Zonal In-charge • Ms. Lalita Shah, Secretary, Women's Wing • Ms. Meena Rana, District Member
NSP (Nepal Sadbhawana Party)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ram Babu Singh, Central Committee Member • Ms. Neelam Verma, President, Women's Wing
NSP-A (Nepal Sadbhawana Party-Anandi Devi)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Anil Kumar Jha, Joint General Secretary • Mr. Govinda Chaudhari, Central Committee Member and Former Mayor, Parasi Municipality, Nawalparasi
PFN (People's Front Nepal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Himlal Puri, Secretary • Ms. Ganga Belbase, Central Committee Member, Women's Wing

Evaluation of the TOT Workshop by the Participants

- Most of the participants rated that the workshop sessions were very useful.
- 65% of the participants stated that the overall training was excellent.
- 65% of the participants stated that the length of the program was good; 15% stated it was lengthy; and only 19% of the participants indicated that the training length was too short.

Compilation of the Post Training Evaluation

1. Please tell us what you thought of the training sessions by placing a check mark next to the statement that corresponds with your views:

	Very Useful	Useful	Fair	Not Useful
Training Sessions				
Leadership Principles	19	6	1	
How to organize trainings/workshops	16	10		
How Adults Learn	15	9	2	
Outreach	13	13		
Party Reform	19	6	1	
Party Organization and Development with Information Technology (IT)	11	8	7	
Message Development	17	9		
Getting the Message Out	15	11		
Party Governance	10	16		
Campaigns	19	7		
Campaign Finance	12	12	2	
Panel Discussion				
Underrepresented Groups in Politics	9	16	1	
Working with Local Media	11	15		
Working with NGOs	4	11	11	
Role Plays				
Peer Training	17	9		
Focus Group Meetings				
Youth	11	14	1	
Women	11	13	2	
Information Technology (IT)	7	15	4	

2. Please rate the overall quality of the training?

	No.	%
Excellent	17	65.38
Very Good	9	34.62
Good		
Fair		
Poor		
Total	26	

3. What do you think of the training period?

	No.	%
Good	17	65.38
Lengthy	4	15.39
Short	5	19.23

4. What do you think of the training methodology?

	No.	%
Very good	16	61.54
Good	10	38.46
Fair		
Poor		
Total	26	

If Poor, Why?

5. Did the training provide the information that you are seeking?

	No.	%
Yes very much	21	80.77
To some extent	5	19.23
Not very much		
Not at all		
Total	26	

If not very much or not at all, why?

6. Were the training messages/sessions clearly presented and understood?

	No.	%
Yes	26	100
No		

If not, why?

7. How was the translation?

	No.	%
Very good	14	53.85
Good	12	46.15
Fair		
Poor		
Total	26	

8. How useful are the training materials?

	No.	%
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Very useful	16	61.54
Useful	10	38.46
Not very useful		
Not useful at all		
Total	26	

If not at all, why?

9. Additional comments and recommendations on the training/materials.

- More educational materials should be distributed;
- Handouts should be given right after every session, not at the end of the training;
- More time should be allotted during panel discussions;
- Training should be organized in a large scale including more participants;
- More time should be given during group presentation;
- Length of the training-of-trainers should be increased;
- It would have been more beneficial if all the materials were provided in both scripts (Nepali and English);
- More examples on Nepal's and South Asian's context should be added in the training;
- Training materials should be more practical than theoretical;
- Facilitators/Trainers should try to ask questions to all the participants rather getting answers from only few participants;
- NDI should encourage political parties to include more participants from the marginalized groups (youth, women, dalit, indigenous, madeshis); and
- NDI should prepare CD of the training programs and distribute to the participants so that they can refer it while organizing party specific trainings.

**INCREASING WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
WOMEN'S ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING WORKSHOP
23-24 May 2005**

**VENUE: HOTEL DE L' ANNAPURNA, KATHMANDU, NEPAL
Organised by NDI**

Report compiled and prepared by Moti Kala Dewan

Background

For two days the National Consultative Workshop on '*Women's Advocacy and Lobbying*' was conducted at Hotel de l' Annapurna, Durbar Marga, Kathmandu, on 23-24 May 2005. Participants in this workshop were representatives from different political parties of Nepal. It was organised by the NDI. The workshop was divided into seven sessions.

This report is a compilation of the suggestions, comments, and remarks expressed in the workshop by the various party members and leaders on the particular topic.

Objective of the Workshop

The main objective of the workshop was to advocate for political party reforms for advancing women's leadership, and to empower the women from grass root level to the central level for the women's full participation in the political process.

Inaugural Session: One

This session started with a welcome speech delivered by **Ms. Kury W. Cobham**, Civil Society Specialist. She highlighted the background of NDI and gave an introduction of the delegates and welcomed all the participants from different districts. She explained that the global and Nepali strategy of women should collaborate. She appreciated the women's political movement in Nepal. She welcomed Hon. **Chitra Lekha Yadav**, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representative to chair the session and other distinguish guests on the dais. She honoured the 8 guest women by presenting them each with a flower bouquet. Then she welcomed **Dr. Nursanita Nasution** from the Indonesian House of Representative to deliver her speech.

Dr. Nursanita expressed her gratitude on behalf of Indonesian women to NDI and thanked all the women participants for their active participation. She shared her experiences about how she was elected. (She gave a handout of her speech, attached). In the end before concluding her speech, she thanked and enlightened everyone with the message that "if women come hand in hand together in politics, then they will reach their goal."

The Chairperson commenced her speech by saying, 'If anyone in democracy is deprived of democracy that means everyone is deprived of democracy'. It is the demand of today's world for women's participation. The constitution of Nepal has provided only 5% of seats for women. Now is the right time to think about this issue while there are 7 parties united in the movement. Even in Nordic countries, Norway and Sweden for instance, women participation is in great numbers not because of the constitutions but by their willingness and effort. She concluded her speech by stating that without women's participation and development democracy is impossible. Women are the strength of democracy.

Sahana Pradhan, Standing Committee Member (CPN-UML) thanked NDI and said she was hopeful about today's workshop. In the past women's participation was zero. Today there is some participation but women are still suffering because they are not getting support from male members of the parties. Just like Indonesia, our society is a male

dominated society. From grass roots to the central decision making level, women's participation is zero. The UML always tries to fulfil the requirements of 5% of women. The total number of women participation at the central, district, and local level is only 9% whereas males have about 91%. But when we talk about the district and local level only 1% of women are involved.

Males have a negative idea that women are not able to do anything (By saying this she didn't want to discard the males instead she was implying that males should walk together hand in hand with the women). She has been involved in the party for 52 or 53 years. Her experience has been that most of the women didn't want to come or were not interested to join the party. Only after the 2046 movement, women started to come out from their homes. Yet most of them joined NGOs and didn't join politics. It was because of the facilities that women wanted to join NGOs. There is an imbalance between women in politics and NGOs. If the women would reach the policymaking level then the story would be different. If women do not reach the policymaking level then certainly there will always be wrong decisions made. To increase the women's participation her party has made the policy of 30% seats for women. She concluded by saying that this workshop will help to bring this fruitful result in the future.

Roshani Karki, Spokesperson, (RPP) welcomed all the participants. She stated that the party and constitution has only shown pity on women. The Party has to accept women's identity if they are to really think about democracy. She said that time has come to settle down the internal dispute of the party otherwise the result will not be good. Women have to do lots of homework to reach a bureaucratic level. Women are the majority but they have to beg in front of males for their rights. If women do not think past today then they will not exist. She concluded her remarks by saying that women will come ahead not only in speech but also in a practical way to achieve democracy.

Sarita Giri, Central Committee Member, (NSP) thanked all and said that it was really good having male friends here because it would help them to think about their mistakes done in the past. Our society is a patriarchal society. It was not a long time ago when women started to come out from their houses. If women did not look after the house then males would not be able to do anything. Women by nature are very sensitive but can handle any situation. We need political inclusion. This is not only a battle of individuals but also a public battle. We are not afraid of competition with males. As to why women are going to the NGOs because there are some rules and regulations. Women feel secure with rules and regulations. Women can do any work. They are hardworking. For women it is very difficult to adjust where only males' friends are. E.g. - In the case of Iraq, one woman officer was involved in the torture of prisoners. She accepted her mistake. We must think as to why she did that. Among male friends she had to cope up with the situation. Just like them she had to act, thus that would be the reason. Finally she concluded her speech by saying that for a petty interests we should not forget the larger goal.

Shasi Shrestha, Central committee Member, (PFN) she thanked all. She stated that most women are suffering in all parties in a certain way. We have a saying that, 'if you want to

see the face of a tiger then see the face of a cat. If you want to know the politics of Nepal then you have to see the condition of women'. The social conditions and the development of our country are in a bad state. Without women's participation it will not be improved. Males always treat women as means of entertainment. They never treat women equally in any sector rather it is political, social, or economical. Without the participation of women we can't dream of a beautiful society. We need release from the household works. It is the responsibility of the family and the state to bring women forth. The state should provide 33% seats for the women compulsorily. For the succession of this the state, party and civil society have to play a major role. Finally, she concluded her speech thanking NDI.

Ms. Kamala Thapa Secretary of Women Organization (NP) thanked all the women who were there because of NDI. She stated in today's world politics is a 'family global village' and they could see that in a short span of time, women are in such positions. She feels that they need commitment. The numbers of seats reserved by the constitution for women are not sufficient. Why hasn't it increased? There is the same condition as Indonesian women where we are facing male domination. Nepalese women always have to struggle within or outside the parties. Now time has come to work together with women involved in NGOs and politics. The participation of women in politics is low which is not good for democracy. Democracy is in danger in the present situation. People are saying it is because of corruption but that is not the only reason. If democracy is in danger that means it is not good for the nation. In order to bring women into active participation we have to leave traditional thoughts. She stated that today she has reached a position so she knows the importance of the post. She concluded her speech by saying that women from NGOs contributed a lot in bringing awareness in the society.

The Chairperson added that democracy can be saved without the party but without democracy the party would not survive. So we have to come together and be united. But at the present situation of the country we can't think about democracy. Parties must be ideal for all and must keep the balance whether it is about women, dalit, or indigenous. She concluded her remark by saying that women have to think about how to include women in the main stream of development.

Ms. Allison Lince Bentley, NDI described 'Win with Women Global Initiative' through power point presentation.

Session Two: Nepali Action Plan

Floor Discussion:

Some suggestions and comments on Nepali Action Plan:

- In the previous year we had had the same demand for 33% seats for women but until now nothing has improved.
- Parties should take the economic burden.
- To implement it, not only women but also males are important.
- In public service, 3 women candidates at a minimum are necessary in the secretary post.
- To provide such seats, the process required to fill them should be mentioned clearly.

- The Gender Auditing and Monitoring done by the State should be written in a simple clarified manner.
- What specific meaning does the 'Special adjustments' convey? A particular time must be mentioned clearly for such an action plan.
- Rather than being called 'Action Plan' it sounds more like 'Suggestion Plan'. The work policy should be concretised. The provision for 33% of seats for women should be made mandatory, then the parties will also reconcile.
- Reservation seats for dalits and indigenous women should be separated according to population. If the post of Chief or assistant Chief is chosen then it should be specifically mentioned for the ladies. The budget allocation for women should also be separated.
- In an educational or democratic field, the word 'Madesi' should be added.
- In topic 5, point 2 the word 'Pani' could have been removed and instead of 'Ama Buwa' could be written.
- While talking about equality between men and women, 'Jhuma' and 'Badi' women could also be discussed.
- Instead of the word, 'reservation', the word 'elected' could be written.
- In school textbooks also, only males are shown doing the outside jobs while women are shown doing the household chores. This gives a wrong message thus this should be improved.
- For every party, it isn't necessary to have different committees for women. But such agendas should be in their parties' manifesto. From the year 2048-2062, there hasn't been any progress for women. Thus we should do networking.
- Women should also be determined to develop their skills.
- Who will implement the action plan and which office will take the responsibility are not clear, and it should be cleared.
- Women empowerment means, culturally, socially, economically, in health and education and many more. In the action plan, this should be mentioned.
- The committee should be given authority rather than a person. Women networking should be developed.

Ms. Kury promised to include all the suggestions. Then **Ms. Sahana Pradhan** said that in the finalisation of the action plan, they would certainly incorporate all the suggestions, but because of the time constraint it would be better to have them in points. The **Chairperson** also apologised for not giving equal opportunities to all. All the suggestions were welcome to create a final draft.

Session Three: Plan to implement Nepali Action Plan

This session allowed participants to hear and share possible measures (both short and long term) or party reforms initiated by the respective political parties to implement Nepali Action Plan to increase women's political participation.

Lunch Break:

Mr. Ram Guragain moderated the session and welcomed all the guests (political party representatives): -**Mr. K.B Gurung**, Central committee Member NC, **Mr Bhim Rawal**, Central Committee Member CPN-UML, **Dr. Minendra Rijal**, Spokesperson NC-D, **Mr Dhurba Bahadur Pradhan**, Deputy General Secretary RPP, **Mr. Dambar Narayan Yadav**, Central Committee Member NSP, **Mr. Anil Jha**, Central Committee Member NSP-A, **Mr. Pari Thapa**, Vice President PFN.

Mr K.B. Gurung welcomed all and described a little about the background of Nepali congress. In the congress party, **Dwarika Devi Thakurani** was elected as the first woman Assistant Minister. He mentioned the number of women seats in the constitution as not sufficient. The women should themselves be determined and come forward. But there is a huge gap between the women of urban and rural areas. So how should we bridge the gap, this should be thought over by today's women. He concluded his speech.

Mr. Bhim Rawal thanked NDI and said that the CPN-UML is always committed to equality between men and women. His party accepted the 33% of women seats and are in the process of formalizing it. To increase the women participation, we have also run country campaigns. All our documents are women centred. We have proposed an amendment of the constitution with different parties because the disparity within constitution should be removed. The condition of the nation today prevents much to be done for women. Lots of work has to be done in different sectors- education, poverty, health, etc. for women. Right now we are having seminars in 5 star hotels, but I remember those bare-footed women who are still suffering in rural area. Mr. Rawal stated that CPN-UML is planning to incorporate Nepali Action Plan in their party's program plan.

Dr. Minendra Rijal, NC-D believed in work rather than mere talk on women's issues. He stated that when women became health ministers that time the maternity death toll increased. This was a shameful record in the world data. Even in the U.S there has been no history of women presidents yet it is highly developed. In Nepal just because women will reach the policy making level, that doesn't guarantee improvement in the standards of women. The action plan should be made in such a way that it would benefit the household ladies as well. He concluded by saying that until and unless women's discrimination is given serious thought, nothing could be done about this matter.

Mr. Dhurba Bahadur Pradhan said that their party RPP respects women according to Hindu religion. He doesn't believe in grooming leaders from grass root level because it takes time. Those learned and experienced women leaders should first be encouraged to a higher position, women who are educated and capable. Quota of seats should be fixed in the upper house. Due to security reasons too, women do not enter politics. He concluded his speech by showing the commitment of incorporating Nepali Action Plan in the party's manifesto.

Mr. Dambar Narayan Yadav stated, instead of "let us win for the women" it would be better to say, "Win for man and women." When women reach a powerful level, they will

surely bring positive changes in the nation. We need social transformations and inclusion of women in politics. He concluded by saying that he stood for equality and equity.

Mr. Anil Jha said that those parties that won 93% of votes, why wasn't there a representative of women from the Terai sector? But our party sends women representatives in most of the serious meetings and seminars. If women want to go outside they feel insecure due to their mother-in-laws. So the backwardness of women is due to women themselves, especially in their castes. With this he concluded his speech.

Mr. Pari Thapa said that democracy has been a global phenomenon, so women are talking about rights to find their identity. As in every language names have been introduced by males, e.g: 'Shrimaan', 'Rastapati', 'Sabhapati' etc. We do not only need intelligence in women but brilliance is also required. His party is the first one, which proposed in the parliament about dalits, women and indigenous women. He concluded by saying that they are committed to take women hand in hand.

Floor discussion and question answer:

- None of the parties has given commitment, as there is no democracy in parties.
- After signing the CDAW treaty, only congress people got the power.
- Women representatives should be there in the general assembly.
- (To the NDI) such programmes should include only women politicians.
- Dowry and marriage should not be compared with daughters. There should not be negative attitude against women.
- When a tiger and goat are kept together, the goat will never get its equal food. Thus Dalits, terai citizens and educated women cannot be kept together.

Response to these questions:

- It is not proper asking for different seats for every group. Women or Dalit, Madhesi women, they should all be considered equally and come together.
- Instead of dowry or marriage, we should emphasise on providing education, health and sanitation for the daughter.
- We are suggesting keeping women's participation more in the legislature.

Session Four: Role of NGOs and Civil Society in Advocating Women's political empowerment process in Nepal

This session was focused on exploring ideas on how NGOs and civil society organisations are playing and will play a vital role in advocating for advancements of women's political participation in Nepal.

Ms. Sahana Pradhan chaired the session. She stated that women working in NGOs earn lots of money but the political women don't have much. Thus there is objection on women joining politics but not in NGOs. NGO is a farm for growing dollars. And she pointed out to **Dr. Durga Pokharel** and **Durga Ghimire** to answer how much of this is true.

Dr. Durga Pokharel regretted that in today's workshop when women were talking seriously the male partners did not pay much heed. She said that she did research about NGOs and found out NGOs until recently have not empowered women. It only provides shelter and security. But in the legal field, it has done quite a great job. When we talk about the women of our country all 99% women from Brahmin, Newar and elite classes are in the powerful post and positions of governmental levels in Nepal. In education in a Brahmin family the boy gets education while the girl does not. Such tradition is still prevalent in rural areas. NGOs have not reached and worked in such areas. All NGOs should work together to see whether they have resources, access, or not. NGOs have chosen to work only in privileged areas. Until the discrimination changes, nothing will change. We have to think about the 9% of males dominating the 91% of women. She concluded her speech saying that from then on women would not be dominated.

Durga Ghimire said that she started her life in politics when she was beaten 3 times by the police and arrested. That time everyone noticed her at New Road as the girl who went to jail. She joined NGOs later not because it was a lucrative job. In the context of Nepal, though she did not carry any political slogans through NGOs she has been giving training to women for capacity building. More than 450 women from 18 districts have been trained against alcohol. Civil society and NGOs have done these types of work, not the politicians. Politics is a money making place. 33% of the politicians are corrupt in India, according to recent data. Politicians talk about women empowerment but that type of work has been done by civil society. Lobbying, advocacy, and women empowerment is done by NGOs. According to research because of NGOs, 80% of women use their voting rights. In 1994 they did their first lobbying. In the SAARC level, the Secretariat pressurised for 33% of reservation for women. Thus to bring forth women, they have to apply new strategies. To implement such strategies, the society and NGOs should go hand in hand. She concluded her speech by saying that she supported strong intellectual collaborations.

The Chairperson said that without agreeing they could not go together. This is a rally for positive thought and she thanked both of them for their support and valuable suggestions.

The floor discussion is opened for the suggestions and comments:

- NDI has done a lot but how long will it support this task?
- Can it be legally endorsed? There's no election so no supports for the parties thus the political parties should think about it.
- This empowerment thing should be reached to DDC and VDC not only at the central level.

Response from Durga Pokharal:

- She helped to register an NGO from Doti in Kathmandu. 'Ama samuha' is one of the examples working in rural areas. And she thanked the lawyers for their contribution in rural areas.

Response from Ms. Durga Ghimire:

- Lots of organisations are working in villages, though she did not mention their names due to short span of time. The organisations are also contributing a lot. They should do networking because there is great strength in it. There are lots of places where organisations have not reached. The government should make a policy to give priority to such tasks.

NDI Tuesday, May 24th 2005

Session Five: Role of Media in Advocating Women's Political Participation Process in Nepal

This session will highlight how media is playing and will play a vital role in consolidating the issue of advancing women's political participation in Nepal. **Mr. Jay Nishaant**, NDI (Nepal Media Consultant) moderated this session. He called upon **Ms. Sahana Pradhan**, CPN-UML to chair the session. Then he asked **Ms. Shova Gautam**, Women Rights Activists and Journalist, to read her paper. (she read what was written on her paper.)

When **Ms. Gautam** finished her reading, **Mr. Jay** invited **Ms. Pradhan** to speak on the topic. **Ms. Pradhan** thanked **Ms. Gautam** for her information about the role of women in the media. The question was, in our society, what women should do when it is still considered all the household chores are meant for women but all the outside work are only for men. **Ms. Pradhan** recalled in 1941 when she was a small girl. A woman drove a motorcycle dressed in modern attire. Everyone criticized the lady because she was driving a vehicle which was a man's job. The next example was before the 2nd world war Japanese women were enclosed within the 4 walls of their houses. After the war during which the country needed re-construction but had lack of laborers, those same women helped to rebuild the nation. Ms. Pradhan joined politics in 2004 B.S. Her involvement in politics started when she raised her voice for education for all women.

Finally from the year 2007-2017 BS, women became interested in involving themselves in politics. But only after the 2046 movement did the women fully participate and contribute towards it. Back then only 1% of women were involved in politics, now it has increased up to 12% of women participating, including all the general staff. Unfortunately in the field of journalism, not even 5% of women are involved. This is a new profession for women which requires a lot of hard work and skill. **Ms. Pradhan** concluded by saying that the time has come to give a serious thought to women. As the media has not yet shown positive aspects towards women.

Questions and Suggestions: Nepal Journalist Federation, Patrakaar Mahasang

- What is your commitment for the inclusion of women in the media? During which the political parties should play an important role.
- How to increase the women's participation and what kinds of possibilities are there for more women participation?
- In media, local languages could also be used for example maithili, bhojpuri etc.

- Is it because of electronic media that the women are attracted towards the media?
- What kind of scope is seen for women in the media?
- Manipulation of power in media, how does it encourage and discourage women?
- Nowadays there is a ban on media, FM and TV, the press and women journalists are losing their identity, so what is the role of your organization in solving this problem? Sometimes if the power of media is mishandled it can lead to disastrous consequences. For example because of the misuse of media a well-known actress, Shirsa Karki has committed suicide. The people who misuse the power of media and indulge in yellow journalism should be punished whereas those who use the media for good should be rewarded
- To bring women forth in such fields, these kinds of workshops should be increased.
- There should be a strong commitment to boost up women; thus what positive role does the 'Mahasang' play?
- Magazines, such as 'Nari, do not give much preference to women involved in politics. When there was an election of journalists in '**Patrakaar Mahasang**' one woman applied for the post of a treasurer. But she backed out. Yet nobody encouraged her, so what are the supportive steps taken to encourage women in such situations?

Answers from Ms. Shova Gautam:

- In politics, there is more involvement of women than in the field of journalism. Till now it is a male dominated area.
- In the case of Shirsa Karki, we can say that a journalist does not kill a person but can create such a situation. If a journalist does not follow his ethics then many people can suffer the same fate as Ms. Karki. Thus only a democratic society can control such mishaps.
- In today's situation, the media is in a blocked condition. If the facts are not published properly, how can we convey the correct message? Manipulation is obviously there but the law should always be equal to all. There is partiality in media as well. If our relatives are concerned with a certain negative incident the media tries to hide their fault. Such kinds of acts should be strictly monitored.
- It is not because of electronic media that the women are attracted towards media. It is due to the determination of the women themselves, as it is an extremely challenging job.
- There is less women participation in the level of policy making. So it's difficult for women to stick to one profession in politics. The commitment seen within political women, such commitment lacks among women journalists.
- For 3 continuous months we tried to convince the ministers and leaders. Finally we succeeded and they gave their consent on 33% of women participation. But then the election was postponed.
- We should not always give negative thoughts to the media, we should think in a positive manner too and must try not to influence the media. Thus for this the media house should be committed.
- Marketing levels sponsor 'Nari' thus we cannot indulge this magazine within the politics circle.
- Politics and media have the relationship that of a nail and flesh. Thus women involved in politics and journalism should go hand in hand to achieve their goal.

After **Ms. Gautam, Dr. Nursanita** described her paper through power point on 'Future Strategies Lobbying/ Advocacy Techniques (best practice)'. She distributed the handouts of her strategies to everyone.

Questions for Dr. Nursanita:

- How did the Indonesian women create a platform for themselves?
- Are your experiences with women similar to ours?
- Soekarnoputri was a woman, but why was she defeated?

Response:

- The platform for Indonesian women was facilitated in 2000 by NDI. The KPPI (Indonesian women political caucus) was created. She shared her experiences about her party. (It is in the paper, which she distributed to everyone).
- In the case of Soekarnoputri, she was a woman but she paid no heed to ordinary people because she thought of herself as a queen. When poverty-stricken people came to her she dismissed them. Which caused her countrymen to despised her. Democratic parties then collected needy youths and incited them against her by saying they treated them better than Soekarnoputri. In the end it led to her fall.

GROUP-1

'Increasing the Number of Women Elected Officials at the National, District and Local Levels'

Who are your allies?

1. Party President and General Secretary
2. Central Organization Department
3. Women Central Committee Member
4. Chief of Sister /Frontal Organization
5. Women Delegates of National Convention
6. Party's District Committees
7. Chief of Sister Organization at District Level
8. National Women Organization of the Party
9. Parliamentary Committee
10. NGOs, CBOs. Women's Organization and other relevant Institution
11. Media

How can you network with them?

1. Formation of Coordination Committees at different levels (National, Regional, Zonal, District etc) of the bodies mentioned earlier.
2. Formation of vertical as well as horizontal linkages to identify the person's (woman) issues and processes.

Who must you persuade to reach your objective?

1. Party Chief and Central Committee Members

2. Organization Department
3. In charge of Regional, Zonal, District and Constituency Level
4. Leaders of Sister Organization
5. Departmental Chief.

What techniques can you use to persuade them?

1. Planning with Party Chief, Organization Department and Women's Wings.
2. Interaction program with leaders from constituency to central level to know the status of women's involvement and find out strategies for increasing women's involvement in future.
3. Organize national level women's cadres gathering representing all sectors; sister organizations, committee members of different level, women members of different level, women members of different departments:
 - Make chief guest the party chief
 - Invite the party chiefs from regional to district level, organization department (central)
 - Share the problems, collect the suggestions and find out the solutions with future plans.
 - Motivate the party chief and organization department chief to express their commitment
 - Organize periodic review meetings for follow up.

Target

Now:

- Assessment of status of women leaders and activists and all levels by their respective political parties.
- To start identifying the interested and efficient women leaders at all levels.
- To keep records of candidates and elected representatives in local bodies in previous election.

Next month:

- To conduct different orientation programs to interested and potential women activists.
- To provide incentive and responsibility (organize them in different Committees) to trained women.

In six months:

- To complete an impact assessment of orientation and continuity in their potential building.

GROUP-2

'Diminishing obstacles limiting Women's Political Participation'

Who are your allies?

1. Central committee of the party
2. Women committee of the party
3. Business Houses/ Entrepreneurs/ traders
4. Citizen's Group

5. Women related National and International Organizations

How can you network with them?

1. Calling and E. mailing for discussion (correspondence)
2. Meetings/discussion, SMS and calling.
3. Visiting only for a few minutes, ask to be a speaker during the meetings.
4. Organize meeting/ disseminate information
5. Visiting, Emailing

Who must you persuade to reach your objective?

1. Central Committee
2. Business Houses
3. Related National and International Organizations.

What techniques can you use to persuade them?

1. Discussion with leaders
2. Visiting, SMS, ask to speak in favor
3. Visiting, E- mailing

Target

Now:

Meetings / Discussion:

- With Central Committee
- With business houses at coffee place, emailing

Next month:

Discussion/ Meeting/ visiting

- At coffee place discussion, visiting for few minutes with business houses and national and international organization
- Collection initiation by campaigning

In six month:

- Collection by campaigning
- Collected amount deposit in Central Office

Question from Group-3

- If you really want to be a good leader then you don't have to ask for money from businessmen to run the election. If you do that you are always under their control. You have to support yourself and ask help from the public. If you are going to be a leader for the public then you have a commitment to them. If you can convince them, they will definitely help you. Running for yourself individually is not elections but it is from the party.

GROUP- 3

'Advocating for Legislation that promotes full equality of Men and Women'

Who are your allies?

1. Government and Political Parties
2. Parliament, House of Representatives and National Assembly

3. Parliamentary Committees
4. Community based Organizations of the Parties
5. Representatives of Local Bodies
6. Legal experts (Individual and Organizational)
7. Organizations and Associations involved in the advocacy in the field of law

Who must you persuade to reach your objective?

1. Civil society
2. Non-governmental organizations (National and international)
3. Framers of the Constitution
4. National Commission on Women and National Human Rights Commission
5. Media for communication (National and International)

How can you network with them?

1. Establishment of national level network having representatives from the political parties and other different sectors who support and advocate the cause

Functions:

- Interaction programmes (Personal / Institutional)
- Discussions
- Taking initiatives / Lobbying /Support
- Coordination / Communication
- Express commitment (written)
- Coordination with Communication media

Target groups for putting pressure

1. Political parties, parliament, concerned parliamentary committees and government

Methods to be adopted

- Submitting written demands
- Giving ultimatum
- Carry out lobbying to a greater extent
- Adopting legal means
- Mass commitment through National Forums
- Incorporation in the programmes and agenda of the political parties
- Giving pressure by taking delegation in case of sluggish attitude
- Holding rallies, sit in (dharnas), gherao and demonstrations if demands are not entertained
- Prepare agenda for political movement
- Submission of demands with ultimatum to all the political parties and concerned agencies by establishing network at the national level
- Conduct pressure building activities; hold interactions and discussion programmes regularly; carry out monitoring and communicating activities and fight for the formation of the parliament
- Approve the draft relating to the formation of the parliament

Question from Group- 4

- You did not mention the specific legislation for getting the citizenship from mother's name.

GROUP- 4

‘Increasing Women’s Substantive Participation in Government Decision Making Processes’

Who are our partners?

1. Social Organizations, Associations and Activists working at the Community Level
2. Sister Organizations of Political Party
3. Local Civil Society
4. Media Persons
5. Indigenous Tribal and Dalit women
6. Human Right Activists
7. Handicapped and Senior Citizens

How to establish network with partners?

1. By holding interaction programmes
2. By becoming familiar with the fruitful activities of the women
3. By holding discussions and initiating implementation process for resolving the identified problems related to women
4. By holding interaction programmes with reporters
5. By conducting interaction programmes and seminars for the empowerment of women from the center to the local level
6. By establishing contacts with the political activists, intellectuals and civil society working at the different levels from time to time
7. By taking delegations, submitting memorandums and conducting pressure building activities with the concerned agencies
8. By informing the media about the activities from time to time
9. By continuing pressure building activities till the demands are met

Who should be approached for the attainment of the objectives?

1. Local People
2. Ward and Village Councils
3. User Committees
4. Political Parties
5. District Councils
6. Journalists
7. Civil Society
8. Intellectuals and Social Servants
9. Pressure Groups of both the Central as well as Local Level

Means to be adopted for putting pressure on them

1. To conduct interaction programmes, discussions and meetings with concerned authorities etc
2. To organize informal meetings and tea parties with concerned persons and agencies from time to time
3. To publicize the activities by releasing the information to the media persons
4. To empower women for the attainment of the objectives
5. To form pressure groups

Target**At present:**

- To commence the programmes related to the promotion of public awareness down to the grass root level
- To form a committee at the local level for taking initiatives

Next month:

- To form groups at wards and localities situated within the V.D.C for taking initiatives
- To formulate effective programmes by establishing coordination with the representatives of the sister organizations of the district level political parties and their male representatives

In six months:

- To formulate policies and programmes for the purpose of implementation (33%) of local and district level decisions by forming central level pressure groups

Those involved with constant commitment

- Presenter: Sabitri Thapa,
- Secretary: Rana Bahadur Balayar
- Helpers: Goma K.C.
Sayandra Bantawa
Urmila Pandey
Satyawati Burma
Pramila Singh
Basundhara Shrestha
Asta Laxmi Shakya

Question from Group-5

How do you reach 33%?

What kind of commitment from the party did you forget to mention, and that should be placed first.

GROUP-5**‘Ensuring that Political Parties include Women in meaningful Leadership Positions’ Objectives**

To ensure the participation of women in a number of posts which are significant for the promotion of their leadership quality by the political parties.

Target groups**Sectors under party leadership**

2. Party's department for women

3. Party's organization for women
4. Party's civil society
5. Present and past elected office bearers (National Assembly, House of Representatives, Local bodies, Political Parties and Civil Society)

Sources

Financial

1. Internal sources of Political Parties
2. Donor Organizations (NDI)
3. Civil Society
4. Local Bodies

Intellectual

1. Women leaders from political parties and organizations
2. Women leaders advocating social movements, Civil Society

Implementation Process

- To form high level committees by including women leaders of all the political parties
- To raise public awareness in relation to the promotion of women leadership quality by organizing mass meetings and holding discussions from the center to the local level
- To include such matter compulsorily in the agenda of all the political parties
- To inform the common people about the matter through the medium of communication
- To cause the important persons of the political parties to make public statements through television and radio
- To carry out nation wide signature campaign for influence both at the center and local level
- To form committees for the purpose of monitoring and evaluation from the local to central level
- To ensure the compulsory representation of women, at least, in one of the posts created for president, vice president and secretary in the district and village units by the political parties within six months

Question from Group-1

Without mentioning the treaties, convention Beijing platform, and without using these could it be possible to meet the target?

Donor issues are always controversial, if no donor will support you what will be your strategy to sustain?

Dr. Nursanita presented her slogan '**Win with Women**' through power point. She was happy to be here and was satisfied seeing the active participation of women in this workshop.

Closing remarks by Ms. Kury

She read from her paper, that it was a 16th hour discussion with all of them together. She hoped that everyone had learned many things. They got more information for lobbying. For the National Action Plan, 5 groups helped them to make it better. She hoped the

women leaders would lead other women in the future to reach their goal. Whatever suggestions came today she assured everyone that she would incorporate them. Most of the issues presented in the past 2 days would help to move forward for the betterment of Nepal Action Plan. The best part was they all became friends, shared, and helped each other. She thanked all and concluded the session by extending her appreciating for all their efforts to make the workshop successful.



DEMOCRACY AND RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM
Media Workshop,
Hotel Annapurna, Kathmandu, Nepal
(May 11 - 13, 2005)

Democracy and a free press are mutually reinforcing and only thrive when both are healthy. In a free society, media play the role of an independent watchdog over the government, the legislature, and the courts. Free and independent media help democracy yield the best results for a nation and its people. Hence, competent, trained, and responsible journalists are an asset to any democracy.

Wednesday, May 11

08:30 Arrival & Registration of Participants/Breakfast
The organizers of the event will welcome the participants, resource persons, and guests. Trainee participants will need to register for the workshop and will be given ID card. Breakfast will be served at the venue.

09:00 Welcome Remarks: Goals and Objectives of the Workshop

Scott Kearin, Resident Director, Nepal, NDI.
P. Kharel, Secretary General – Nepal Press Institute (NPI)
Judy Yablonky, Media Consultant, Journalism Trainer
Narayan Wagle, Editor – Kantipur Daily
Bishnu Nisthuri, President - FNJ (Federation of Nepalese Journalists)

Introduction of the participants
(Participants will tell about themselves, organizational affiliations, and reasons for attending the workshop)

Session Moderator: Jay Nishaant

9:45 Session I: REPORTING UNDER RESTRICTED PRESS FREEDOM
The first session will shed light on the present political situation in Nepal through an explanation of the state of emergency or when the press freedom is curbed and its repercussions on the media. It also will deal with the challenges faced by media managers, editors and reporters both in Kathmandu valley and outside.

Presentation (20 min.):
Mr Yubaraj Ghimire (Editor: SAMAY weekly)

Comments (10 min.):
Mr. Ram Pradhan (Editor: The Himalayan Times)

Discussion & Q/A (30 min.)
Participants question and comment on the presentations.

10:45 Break for Tea/Coffee (15 min.)

- 11:00 **Session II: *RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM* (Judy Yablonky)**
- Defining Responsible Journalism***
 (Brainstorming definition by and from participants)
- A Look at Media Ethics: International Codes***
- 12:00 **Break for lunch**
- 13:00 **Session III: *STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY THROUGH RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM* (Judy Yablonky)**
- The Role of Media in a Democracy***
 What kind of a role does the press play in the strengthening and maintenance of a democracy? How can the press strengthen or weaken a democracy by its actions?
- 14:00 **Break for Tea/Coffee (15 min.)**
- 14:15 **Session IV: *RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM AS PROTECTION* (Judy Yablonky)**
- Ethical Problems: Looking for Solutions***
- Small Groups formation & group assignments***
- Video: Journalism Ethics: The New Debate***
- Handouts: UNESCO/RSF Guide, Codes and Ethics Resources***
- 16:30 **End of the first day.**

Thursday, May 12

- 08:30 **Breakfast**
- 09:00 **Session V: *BROADCASTING FOR AN INFORMED SOCIETY***
 Radio, television and the new electronic mediums, such as the Internet, are powerful media that can convey news, views and shape public opinion. In a nascent democracy such as Nepal, electronic media can reinforce or undercut democratic principles like freedom of expression, the right of the people to information, and the subsequent right to choose one path or another based on that information.
- Presentation (20 min.):
 Mr. Tirtha Koirala (News Editor: Kantipur Television)
- Comments (10 min.):
 Mr. Bijay Kumar Pandey (Television Talk Show Host)
- Discussion & Q/A (30 min)

Participants' questions and comments on the presentations.

Session Moderator: Ram Guragain

10:15 **Break for Tea/Coffee (15 min.)**

10:30 **Session V, Continued: BROADCASTING FOR AN INFORMED SOCIETY (Judy Yablonky)**

12:00 **Break for Lunch**

13:00 **Session VI: *REPORTING THE CONFLICT IN NEPAL***

This session will examine the ongoing conflict and how reporting and conflict affect each other.

Presentation (20 min)

Mr. Jan Sharma (Freelance Journalist)

Comments (10 min)

Mr. Rajendra Dahal (Editor of HIMAL Fortnightly Magazine)

Discussion & Q/A (30 min)

Participants question and comment on the presentations.

Session Moderator: P. Kharel

14:30 **Break for Tea and Coffee**

14:45 **Session VI: continued: *REPORTING THE CONFLICT IN NEPAL* (Judy Yablonky and Suman Pradhan)**

This session will be conducted jointly by Ms. Yablonky and Mr. Pradhan

Lecture and Group Discussion: *The participants will discuss the How To's, and the Dos and Don'ts for any journalist covering any conflict.*

Small groups: *To find ways to apply these generalities to the specifics of Nepalese reporting.*

Handouts: Conflict Sensitive Journalism, Reporting Diversity and Peace Journalism Materials

16:30 **Optional Video: Dangerous Assignments**

Friday, May 13

- 8:30 **Breakfast**
- 9:00 **Session VI, Continued: *REPORTING THE CONFLICT IN NEPAL***
(Judy Yablonky and Suman Pradhan)
This session will be conducted jointly and Ms. Yablonky and Mr. Pradhan
- Participants will discuss the national and international contexts of reporting conflict. Small groups from the previous day's discussion will report back to the plenary.
- 10:00 **Break for Tea/Coffee (15 min.)**
- 10:15 **Session VII: *FREE PRESS & DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS***
- Panel Discussion: ***Political Parties and Resource Persons***
- Political Leaders: ***Spokespersons of the Leading Four Parties***
- Political Participants: ***Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, Mr. Pradip Nepal, Dr. Minendra Rijal, and Ms. Roshan Karki***
- Journalist Participants: ***Mr. Kunda Dixit, Mr. Yubaraj Ghimire and Mr. Akhilesh Upadhyay***
- Moderator: ***Jay Nishaant***
- (After brief presentations, the panelists and participants will ask questions of one another)*
- 12:00 **Break for Lunch**
- 13:00 **Session VII: Continued: *FREE PRESS & DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS* (Judy Yablonky)**
- Concluding Remarks***
- 14:30 **End of the Workshop**
- Distribution of certificates by NPI***
Group Photo
- (Dinner in the evening at 18:30 for those interested)***